

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, URGING THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO ABANDON THE "WILD LANDS" WILDERNESS RE-INVENTORY AND REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO HONOR THE LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN IDAHO AND THE WESTERN UNITED STATES, AND TRANSMITTING A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, TO THE SPEAKER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO MEMBERS OF IDAHO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the wide multiple use of the public lands in Idaho and in the western United States is necessary for economic stability and is an important part of our culture, our heritage and is critical to our futures; and

WHEREAS, prudent application of sustainable multiple use principles allows our renewable and abundant natural resources to be of value to all Americans while protecting the many unique and sensitive parts of our state; and

WHEREAS, the federal government controls nearly two of every three acres of land within the state of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the multiple use management of the lands held in common in Idaho has contributed to the well-being of the state and nation through energy development, mineral development, production of food and fiber and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, abundant and affordable supplies of energy are vital ingredients to a thriving economy, with additional transmission and generation being necessary to increase supplies to keep up with growing demands; and

WHEREAS, the BLM's stated multiple use mission is: "To sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes its mission by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural and other resources on public lands"; and

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2008, the BLM, and the U.S. Departments of Energy, Agriculture and Defense identified 6,100 miles of energy corridors on federally administered lands in eleven western states to facilitate future siting of oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines, as well as renewable energy development projects and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on federal lands in the West to meet the region's increasing energy demands; and

WHEREAS, 296 miles of identified energy corridors are on BLM administered lands within Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has identified Idaho as a critical link in U.S. power-line and pipeline networks and, furthermore, the BLM acknowledges that BLM

1 managed lands can play a key role in expanding pipeline and powerline capac-  
2 ity while protecting and conserving other resources found on the land; and

3 WHEREAS, solar, wind, geothermal and biomass energy production oppor-  
4 tunities have been identified on BLM administered lands within Idaho and  
5 within the eleven western states; and

6 WHEREAS, management of the unreserved federal lands administered by the  
7 Department of Interior are obligated under the Federal Land Policy Manage-  
8 ment Act (FLPMA) to incorporate into agency management plans "consistency"  
9 in partnership with state and local planning; and

10 WHEREAS, a fundamental principle espoused by the nation's founders  
11 called for equality among the states and is referred to as the "Equal Footing  
12 Doctrine," a principle that calls for each state to enter the Union equal in  
13 their sovereign power; and

14 WHEREAS, the Department of Interior's "Treasured Landscapes" internal  
15 planning document reveals an agency bias, and outside influences identified  
16 as much as 130 million acres of BLM administered lands for special "Wild  
17 Lands" designation and recommending the Secretary of Interior circumvent  
18 congressional mandates relating to wilderness designations, calling for  
19 wilderness protection through Presidential Proclamations; and

20 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior announced on December 22, 2010,  
21 Secretarial Order 3310 calling for a re-inventory of BLM lands with "wilder-  
22 ness characteristics" under a new secretarial definition of "Wild Lands" di-  
23 verting funds from critical agency needs; and

24 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has inventoried lands with  
25 wilderness characteristics, following the National Environmental Policy  
26 Act (NEPA) requirements as part of the agency's Resource Management Planning  
27 (RMP) process; and

28 WHEREAS, Secretarial Order 3310 seeks to establish new wilderness study  
29 areas in Idaho and throughout the West based on the new wild lands definition  
30 and BLM inventory guidance providing BLM broader authority to stop energy  
31 development, livestock grazing, mineral extraction and recreational activ-  
32 ities; and

33 WHEREAS, the BLM is currently involved in processing right-of-way ap-  
34 plications for the Gateway West transmission line, the Southwest Intertie  
35 Project, the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line and the Mountain States  
36 Transmission Intertie which may be jeopardized or severely delayed due to  
37 the Secretarial Order 3310; and

38 WHEREAS, Secretarial Order 3310 would seriously impair, or entirely  
39 eliminate, the ability of Idaho to produce clean, home-grown renewable en-  
40 ergy on vast areas of BLM administered lands; and

41 WHEREAS, Secretarial Order 3310 is a violation of the spirit and the  
42 letter of the Wilderness Act of 1964, ultimately undermining the goodwill  
43 and collaborative efforts currently underway in Idaho to find mutually  
44 agreeable land use solutions.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
46 sion of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-  
47 resentatives concurring therein, that we urge the Secretary of Interior to  
48 abandon the "Wild Lands" wilderness re-inventory and we request the United  
49 States Congress to honor the longstanding commitment to multiple use manage-  
50 ment of public lands in Idaho and the western United States.

1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a  
2       copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Presi-  
3       dent of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of  
4       Representatives, and to members of Idaho's congressional delegation.